

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09463 281525Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----013199 281544Z /46  
R 281511Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7263

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 09463

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS EG US  
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN PURCHASING SENSORS FROM  
U.S. SOURCES

REF: 77 CAIRO 14319

1. AS DEPT AWARE, GOE HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN INTERESTED IN PURCHASING SENSORS FOR USE IN THE WESTERN DESERT AREAS BORDERING LIBYA. PARA 4 REFTEL REPORTED GAMASY'S INSTRUCTIONS TO SHAWKAT TO ASCERTAIN IF ADEQUATE SENSORS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE IN EUROPE. IF NOT, GAMASY INDICATED, HE MIGHT WANT TO APPROACH US. (REFTEL, INCIDENTALLY, INADVERTENTLY STATED SENSORS WOULD BE USED IN EASTERN BORDER AREAS. THIS IS INCORRECT.)

2. SINCE THAT TIME SHAWKAT HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS SPOKEN TO DATT AND ONCE TO AMBASSADOR ABOUT EGYPTIAN MILITARY REQUIREMENT FOR SENSORS. HE HAS EMPHASIZED THAT THESE ARE NEEDED FOR THE WESTERN BORDER AREAS WHERE THE DESERT AREAS ARE VAST AND EMPTY AND LIBYAN INFILTRATION IS A CONSTANT THREAT. SHAWKAT HAS ALSO INDICATED EUROPEAN-MANUFACTURED SENSORS ARE NOT ADEQUATE. HIS RECENT VISIT TO SFM HAS AGAIN WHETTED HIS APPETITE FOR AMERICAN SENSORS.

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3. IN A TALK WITH GAMASY LAST EVENING, HE ASKED ME ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING SOME SENSORS IN THE U.S. HE GAVE NO SPECIFIC NUMBERS, BUT SAID HE SIMPLY WANTED TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY AT THIS TIME. IF IT INVOLVES A MAJOR PROBLEM WITH THE CONGRESS, HE WOULD NOT WANT TO PURSUE IT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SENSORS ARE NON-

LETHAL AND PURELY PASSIVE AND HOPED USG MIGHT SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO AUTHORIZING SALE OF SENSORS. HE CONTINUED THAT THEY ARE WANTED FOR USE IN THE WESTERN DESERT AREAS. HE EMPHASIZED HIS QUERY WAS INTENDED TO BE INFORMAL REPEAT INFORMAL AT THIS TIME. IF OUR REPLY IS POSITIVE, WE COULD TALK ABOUT SPECIFICS.

4. COMMENT: GAMASY'S QUERY AGAIN RAISES THE QUESTION OF SENSORS. I WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION FROM DEPT WHETHER WE WOULD BE WILLING TO LICENSE THE SALE OF SENSORS TO GOE FOR USE IN THE WESTERN DESERT. I DID NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF DATT, BG PFAUTZ, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THIS MORNING FOR WASHINGTON AND REQUEST NEA CONTACT HIM THROUGH DIA AND ADVISE HIM OF GAMASY'S LATEST INFORMAL QUERY. ALSO SUGGEST THIS MESSAGE BE PASSED TO DOD FOR ITS INFORMATION. EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY EQUIPMENT, REMOTE SENSING, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Subject:** EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN PURCHASING SENSORS FROM U.S. SOURCES  
**TAGS:** MASS, EG, US  
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**Review Markings:**  
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